



**Sheila Dixon**

Mayor,  
Baltimore

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250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202  
410-396-3835 • Fax: 410-576-9425

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**CONTACT:**  
**Anthony McCarthy**  
**(410) 869-6079 (Cell)**

## **Dixon Announces Deal with CSX on Fort Avenue and Sinclair Lane Bridges**

*Design to Begin Immediately on Fort Avenue; CSXT, City to Share Costs*

Baltimore, MD (October 11, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon today announced an agreement in principle with CSX Transportation regarding the replacement of two CSX-owned bridges in Baltimore City. Under the agreement, CSX will pay the full design cost and 75% of construction costs for the Fort Avenue and Sinclair Lane bridges, if new federal funds can not be secured by July 1, 2009. The design work on Fort Avenue is expected to be completed by that date. The City will take ownership of and maintenance responsibility for the bridges once the construction is completed. In addition, the City has agreed to deconstruction of the Wicomico Street Bridge in Southwest Baltimore, which has been closed for more than a decade.

“This agreement represents a significant commitment by CSX to the City of Baltimore. We are grateful that CSX has stepped up to the plate and is working in partnership with us to correct these long-standing problems,” said Mayor Sheila Dixon. She added that the agreement would not have been possible without the support of the Maryland’s congressional delegation, including Senator Barbara Mikulski and Congressman Elijah Cummings, and Secretary John Porcari of the Maryland Department of Transportation.

"CSX is pleased that it has been able to work with the City in a spirit of shared responsibility to resolve the issues affecting these bridges. This is a solution that respects and meets everyone's needs and protects the safety of the public," said Ellen Fitzsimmons, Senior Vice President of Law and Public Affairs for CSX.

In order to accommodate the testing necessary for bridge design, parking will be restricted on the Fort Avenue Bridge. Engineers will undertake borings, core samples and survey work in the parking lane over the next few months.

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